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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 9 (published as paragraph 0021) with the following paragraph:

Referring now generally to FIGS. 1-12, there is shown one embodiment of a rod reducer 20. In that embodiment, rod reducer 20 includes a base 22 (including an upper base portion 24 and a lower base portion 26 in the illustrated embodiment), a shaft element 28, a plate element 30, and a sleeve element 32. Shaft element 28 is slidable with respect to base 22. Plate element 30 is pivotably connected to shaft 28 at or near an end of shaft 28. Sleeve 32 is slidably coupled to base 22 independently of shaft 24 28.

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION
Application Serial No.: 10/789,610
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